

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8665

INFO CINCPAC

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN DANANG

S E C R E T SAIGON 4205

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VC

SUBJECT: ICCS IN THE DELTA WHAT EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP CAN EXPECT
TO FIND

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONGEN CAN THO DATED MAR 14
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION
/ INFO

S E C R E T CAN THO 0044

1. SUMMARY: EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP WILL FIND A MARKED CONTRAST
BETWEEN THE ACTIVE, ALMOST HECTIC PACE OF ICCS IN REGION VII,
AND THE STALLED REGION VI ICCS MACHINERY MANNED BY BORED AND
FRUSTRATED OFFICERS. REGION VII ICCS HAS FINISHED OR HAS IN-
PROCESS 23 CEASEFIRE VIOLATION INVESTIGATIONS, ALL AT GVN
REQUEST. REGION VI IS BATTING ZERO FOR ZERO. THE GVN WAS
SLOW TO ACCEPT THE ICCS BUT HAS NOW ADOPTED A MORE FORTHCOMING
ATTITUDE, TREATING ICCS TEAMS TO SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY, AND
SUBMITTING NUMEROUS VC/ NVA VIOLATIONS OCCASIONALLY OVER-
ORCHESTRATED
FOR INVESTIGATION. NO INVESTIGATION REPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC,
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HOWEVER, AND THE GVN MAY BE LESS THAN HAPPY WITH THEM WHEN THEY ARE,

BECAUSE THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO CONDEMN UNEQUIVOCALLY THE VC/ NVA AS PERPETRATORS. THE GVN HAS CUT ITS MILITARY ACTIVITY RECENTLY, BUT THE VC/ NVA APPEAR TO HAVE STEPPED UP THEIRS. THE ICCS HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED AFTER SIX WEEKS THAT ITS PRESENCE HAS ANY EFFECT WHATSOEVER ON THE LEVEL OF HOSPILITIES, BUT PERHAPS ON THE LOCALE. NEVERTHELESS, THE CANADIANS IN CAN THO WILL PROBABLY URGE THAT ICCS BE GIVEN A LITTLE LONGER TRIAL BEFORE CANADA MAKES ANY DECISION TO WITHDRAW.

2. THE CANADIANS HAVE AGGRESSIVELY, BUT DEPLOMATICALLY, LED REGION VII FIRST INTO DEPLOYMENT THEN INTO INVESTIGATIONS. THE INDONESIANS HAVE FULLY SUPPORTED CANADIAN LEADERSHIP SEEMINGLY WITH THE ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS AT ALL LEVELS WITHOUT REFERRING TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS. THE HUNGARIANS HAVE PUT UP TOKEN RESISTANCE, ARGUING THE NEED TO WORK THRU THE FPJMC, BUT THEY HAVE CLEARLY NOT HAD THEIR HEARTS IN THE ARGUMENT AND HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN IT UP IN THE END. THE POLES HAVE TAKEN THE SAME TACK, BUT MORE TENACIOUSLY. BUT THEY, TOO, HAVE USUALLY ACCEDED TO CANADIAN INITIATIVE TO AVOID BEING LEFT OUT IN THE COLD.

3. REGION IV HAS FALLEN PREY TO POLISH- HUNGARIAN CASUISTRY. THE POLES WITH HUNGARIAN SUPPORT HAVE INSISTED THAT THE ICCS CAN ONLY ACT THROUGH THE NON- FUNCTIONING FPJMC. FROM THE OUTSET, THE CANADIANS APPARENTLY ADOPTED A POLICY OF UNWAVERING UNANIMITY AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE OTHER THREE ICCS DELEGATIONS AON ALL MATTERS, FORMAL, INFORMAL, SOCIAL, AND SUBSTANTIVE THE RESULT IS THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETELY OBSTRUCT ICCS ACTION ON ANY ISSUE. TACTICALLY THE REGION VI CANADIANS MAY HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BY THE NECESSITY TO GET HELICOPTERS FROM SAIGON, MAKING ANY THREAT TO UNILATERALLY CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS NOT CREDIBLE. REGION VII HAS ITS OWN CHOPPERS AND THE CANADIANS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY USED THIS PLOY TO PRESSURE THE OTHERS.

4. THE GVN WAS NEARLY HOSTILE TOWARD THE ICCS AT FIRST. THEN SEEING IT WAS CAUSING NO HARM, THE GVN SEEMED RATHER INDIFFERENT TO ITS PRESENCE. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, IN PART BECAUSE OF ORDERS FROM ABOVE, THE GVN BEGAN TO ACTIVELY COURT ICCS TEAM MEMBERS, AND HAS BECOME THE PROLIFIC (UNDER REGION VII US JMC TUTELAGE) AUTHOR OR REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. SOME OF THE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT GONE SMOOTHLY, HOWEVER, AND THE GVN MAY BE DISAPPOINTED IN THE RESULTS IF, AS APPEARS

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LIKELY, THE VC/ NVA ARE NOT CLEARLY BLAMED FOR THEIR VIOLATIONS.

5. ICCS PRESENCE HAS HAD NO EFFECT ON MILITARY ACTIVITY AS BOTH SIDES CONTINUED TO SLUG IT OUT TO GAIN THE MOST ADVANTAGE BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE BECOMES A REALITY. THE GVN, ON ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT THIEU, HAS CUT BACK ON AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS AND LIMITED THE USE OF AIR AND ARTILLERY. THE VC / NVA HAVE CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. THEY HAVE NOT SHELLED TRI TON, HOWEVER, SINCE THE ICCS DEPLOYED THERE. THAT MAY BE A HOPEFUL SIGH THAT, AT THE LEAST, ICCS PRESENCE IN A SPECIFIC LOCALITY WILL DISCOURAGE MILITARY ADVENTURISM BY EITHER SIDE IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY. BARNES UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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